

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2009

The Honorable John Oliver
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
2358-A Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Latham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing, and Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
2349 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oliver and Ranking Member Latham:

We are writing to request a funding level of at least \$360 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program for Fiscal Year 2010. As you know, the HOPWA program, which enjoys wide bipartisan support, is the only federal housing program that specifically provides cities and states with the resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with HIV/AIDS.

Despite consistent support from your committee in increasing HOPWA's annual appropriation, the growing demand for services requires a substantial increase this year. The National AIDS Housing Coalition estimates that over \$3.2 billion is required to truly meet the housing needs of all those living with HIV/AIDS. In light of budget realities, however, we ask for \$360 million to help those in the greatest need.

While major strides have been made in treatment options for people living with HIV/AIDS, the cost of these new treatments can often force people to decide between essential medications and necessities such as housing. Individuals with HIV/AIDS must have stable housing to ensure access to, and benefit from, complex drug treatments which often require special dietary needs. Homeless or unstably housed HIV infected persons experience higher viral loads and more hospitalizations than those who are stably housed. Inadequate housing is not only a barrier to treatment, but also puts people with HIV/AIDS at risk of premature death from exposure to other diseases, poor nutrition, stress and lack of medical care.

At any given time, one-third to one-half of all Americans with HIV/AIDS are either homeless or in imminent danger of losing their homes. HOPWA answers this need, successfully providing suitable, reasonably-priced housing for thousands of Americans battling AIDS. HOPWA enables cities and states to design and provide community-based, cost-effective housing for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. It provides maximum flexibility so that states and communities can implement strategies that respond to local housing needs and shortfalls. In addition, the administrative costs of the program are capped, ensuring the money goes directly to serving people with HIV/AIDS.

HOPWA funds will support the delivery of housing assistance to households across 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia through competitive and formula grants. Unfortunately, the demand for housing accommodations for people living with HIV/AIDS continues to greatly outweigh the resources currently available.

Recent studies show that people with housing are at a much lower risk of becoming infected with HIV/AIDS. The HOPWA program offers thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families the safety and stability necessary to benefit from drug treatments that have contributed to a dramatic reduction in AIDS mortality in this nation. We therefore urge you to give the highest priority to an allocation of \$360 million for HOPWA in the FY10 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill so that this important program may continue to serve those in need.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Errol Hadler

[Signature]

C. M. J.

John Lewis

[Signature]

Joe Courtney

[Signature]

[Signature]

Jim Sanguin

Mike Michael

Eddie Jim Johnson

Neil Abernethy

Luan A. Davis

Michael S. Cays

Mazie H. Herono

Paul M. Arizawa

Arvin

Rush Holt

Carol Shea-Power

Keith Elkin

Jim M. Bennett

Carolyn B. Mulaney

John D. Russell

Melanie Watson

Alceas Hastings

B. P. P. P.

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Bill Parcell Jr

Nydia M. Velazquez

Dominic J. Kuminich

Tammy Baldwin



Dan DeGette

Dale E. Gilder

Elmer L. Engel

Robert W. Nash

Elijah E. Jennings

Elouin

Ken A. Waxman



Bobby T. Nash

Paul Nash

Rosa L. De Lauro

George Miller

Mimi Van Hollen

Billy Tau

Frank Johnson

Paul Weiss

Chela Fattah

Jan Schatz

Yvette D. Clarke

Members Signing the Letter

1. Jerrold Nadler	2. Joseph Crowley
3. Chris Murphy	4. John Lewis
5. Anna Eshoo	6. Joe Courtney
7. Al Green	8. Russ Carnahan
9. Jim Langevin	10. Mike Michaud
11. Eddie Bernice Johnson	12. Neil Abercrombie

13. Susan Davis	14. Michael Capuano
15. Mazie Hirono	16. Raul Grijalva
17. Paul Hodes	18. Rush Holt
19. Carol Shea-Porter	20. Keith Ellison
21. Jim McDermott	22. Carolyn Maloney
23. John Dingell	24. Maxine Waters
25. Alcee Hastings	26. Charles Rangel
27. Eleanor Holmes Norton	28. Bill Pascrell, Jr.
29. Nydia Velazquez	30. Dennis Kucinich

31. Tammy Baldwin	32. Diana DeGette
33. Anthony Weiner	34. Dale Kildee
35. Eliot Engel	36. Robert Wexler
37. Elijah Cummings	38. Edolphus Towns
39. Henry Waxman	40. John Conyers
41. Bobby Rush	42. Bill Delahunt
43. Rosa DeLauro	44. George Miller
45. Chris Van Hollen	46. Bobby Scott
47. Hank Johnson	48. Mel Watt

49. Chaka Fattah	50. Jan Schakowsky
51. Yvette Clark	